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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/148,615	09/04/98	KILGORE	B MS-78

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EXAMINER

CHEN, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/148,615

Applicant(s)

Kilgore

Examiner

Te(Susan) Chen

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 6, 1999

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 - 23 are presented for examination.
2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that clearly indicates the invention to which the claims are directed. The current title is imprecise.
3. It is noted that although the present application does contain line numbers in the specification and claims, the line in the claims do not correspond to the preferred format. The preferred format is to number each line of every claim, with each claim beginning with line 1. For ease of reference by both Examiner and Applicant all future correspondence should include the recommended line numbering.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321© may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

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Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 19 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7, 11-13 of copending Application No. 09/157,018 and claims 1-5, 8, 13-15, 17 and 21 of Application No. 09/156,766.

5. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of these inventions involve the same subject of dynamically adjusting query data values in response to remote user input via an user interface on a network client / server architecture.

6. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maggioncalda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,044).

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9. As to claims 2-6, Maggioncalda et al. disclosed a display device as claimed, including the followings:

a query grid having at least one field and associated criteria and being transferred from server to a remote client through a communications interface in respond to client's request [Fig. 1; col. 6, lines 31-37];

a plurality of adjustable interface options on client display device for adjusting associated criteria of the at least one associated field [Fig. 4], wherein the adjustable interface options comprise a) a plurality of slider filters with multiple boundaries and a plurality of controls for adjusting criteria of associated fields in real time [Fig. 5b]; b) the interface tool having slider filters, input boxes and radio buttons [Fig. 4]; c) the slider filter dynamically coupled to an input box so that the slider filter and the input box dynamically change in respond to a user's selection of interface options [Fig. 9; Fig. 12 A-B; col. 2, lines 45-51].

10. Maggioncalda et al. did not explicitly disclosed that the interface tool having drop-down menus;

11. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include drop-down menu as an interface tool to help and visibly facilitate user interaction with a constrained set of decision variables.

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12. As to claims 1 and 7-23, the steps in the claimed method are deemed to be made obvious by the functions of the application structure in the combination discussed above, hence were rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Douglass et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,426); Orr et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,808,916) and Campbell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,208,974).

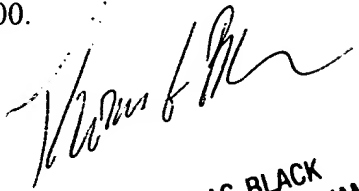
14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

15. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached at (703) 305-9707. The fax phone number for this group is (703)306-5404.

16. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Susan Chen

June 28, 2001


THOMAS BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100